

DE News

November 30, 2001 Iowa Department of Education Ted Stilwill, Director

Teachers earn National Board Certification

Eighty-seven Iowa teachers this year have earned National Board Certification, bringing to 321 the total number of Iowa teachers achieving this status.

National Board Certification is a voluntary process administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes nearly a year to complete. Nationally, about 6,500 teachers from 49 states are certified.

These teachers who have earned their national certification are especially laudable not just for their hard work, but also for their proven commitment to quality teaching. Research consistently shows that a quality teacher is the strongest influence on how well a student learns.

To see a complete list of Iowa teachers certified in 2001, go to <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/>.

Alternate assessment training set

Next spring the DE is planning to implement the Iowa Alternate Assessment process for students with disabilities to comply with new federal guidelines that require all students, including those with several disabilities, be included in district assessments.

Two training opportunities are being offered to administrators and teachers to help them understand the general scope and purpose of the alternate assessment process and how to work with other educators and parents during implementation.

For more information and training dates, visit <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/>.

Governor prepares policy and budget priorities

As part of the state policy and budgeting process, Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Pederson have completed a series of six town meetings across the state. The meetings, which focused on the theme of family security, addressed issues relating to health care, education, jobs and the economy. A budget hearing on Monday, December 3, at the Wallace Building in Des Moines, will wrap up that process.

The final Vilsack/Pederson policy and budget recommendations will be presented Tuesday, January 15, during the Governor's State of the State address at the Capitol.